## CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	V	Force		Discourt.	U.S.
Katherine Matejcak		Squad #1	201609337	Ø	Abuse		O.L.	Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	P	recinct:	18	Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Tuesday, 11/08/2016 9:45 AM		517 East 117th Street			25	5	5/8/2018	5/8/2018
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:		Date/Time	Rece	eived at CC	RB
Wed, 11/09/2016 3:09 PM		Precinct	In-person		Wed, 11/09	9/201	6 3:09 PM	I
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess					
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ess					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. POF Lydia Figueroa	17881	945718	025 PCT					
2. POF Rosemary Flores	31169	958595	025 PCT					
Officer(s)	Allegation	on			Inve	stiga	ator Recor	nmendation
A.POF Lydia Figueroa	Abuse: P	olice Officer Lydia Figu	ieroa stopped <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup>	1				
D DOE D	A1 D	T. O.C. D	1 5187/21	(b)				
B.POF Rosemary Flores	Abuse: P	olice Officer Rosemary	Flores stopped 8 67(2)	(5)				
C.POF Lydia Figueroa	Abuse: Police Officer Lydia Figueroa interfered with \$87(2)(b) s use of a recording device.							
D.POF Lydia Figueroa	Force: Police Officer Lydia Figueroa used physical force against § 87(2)(b)							
E.POF Lydia Figueroa	Abuse: P	olice Officer Lydia Figu	ieroa detained § 87(2)(t	0)				

### **Case Summary**

On November 9, 2016, § 87(2)(b) filed this complaint in person at the 25<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse [01 Board Review]. It was received by the CCRB on November 9, 2016. On November 8, 2016 at approximately 9:45 a.m., §87(2)(b) was in the checkout line at the Target store at 517 East 117th Street in Manhattan when she and a cashier argued about s purchases. \$87(2)(b) swung her hand at the cashier but did not make contact with her. In response, the cashier told members of the Target security team that \$87(2)(b) had hit her. A Target security guard then called 911 and reported that an assault had taken place at the tried to exit the building but was stopped by two Target security guards before she could do so. These guards followed [387(2)(5)] around the store as they waited for took out her cell phone and recorded the security guards. As she the police to arrive. § 87(2)(b) was recording, PO Lydia Figueroa and PO Rosemary Flores of the 25<sup>th</sup> Precinct stopped her (Allegations A and B). PO Figueroa asked § 87(2)(b) to put her phone down. When § continued to record, PO Figueroa grabbed the phone out of her hands to stop her from recording (**Allegation C**). § 87(2)(b) was handcuffed. During the handcuffing process, PO Figueroa allegedly elbowed § 87(2)(b) (**Allegation D**). The officers then escorted § (Allegation D). The officers then escorted to a detention cell inside the store while they reviewed security video. The officers reviewed the video and determined that \$37(2)(b) was not guilty of assault. Before releasing PO Figueroa reportedly approached her while she was still handcuffed inside the detention room and told her that she would have to sign a trespass notice for Target before being released or getting her cell phone back (Allegation E). Once [887(2)] agreed to sign the form, she was taken out of handcuffs and given her cell phone back. She then exited the store without incident. § 87(2)(b) was not arrested or issued a summons as a result of this incident. Cell phone video footage for this incident was obtained from § 87(2)(b) and surveillance footage was obtained from Target. The video from \$87(2)(b) is linked to IA #110 of the digital case file. The videos from Target are linked to IAs #110, 136, 137, and 138 of the digital case file.

### Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

- rejected mediation for this case, § 87(2)(b)
- As of February 6, 2017, no Notice of Claim has been filed for this incident [02 Board Review1.
- [§ 87(2)(b)] [§§ 86(1)(3)&(4)] [§ 87(2)(c)]

#### Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- s first CCRB complaint.
- PO Figueroa has been a member of the NYPD for 9 years. This is the sixth CCRB case filed against her. One case, #201110297, contained two substantiated force allegations in which it was found that PO Figueroa punched a civilian and struck him with an asp. The

Page 2

Board recommended that the case be substantiated with charges, while the Department closed the case as DUP and took no disciplinary action. \$87(2)(9)
[04 Board Review].
<u>Potential Issues</u>
• During her CCRB interview, \$87(2)(b) allowed investigators to view video from the incident that she had recorded on her cell phone but refused to provide the CCRB with a copy. After consulting with her attorney, \$87(2)(b) agreed to send the recording to the CCRB. The DVD was received by the undersigned on December 13, 2016. This copy was a separate recording of \$87(2)(b) s cell phone screen made with a different recording device and was of poor quality. It did not contain the sound from the original recording. The undersigned asked \$87(2)(b) to provide a copy with sound, which was ultimately received at the CCRB on January 18, 2017. This copy was another recording of a recording and the sound of the original video was difficult to hear over other background noise.
Allegations Not Pleaded
• Force – Physical Force: In her initial CCRB complaint, \$87(2)(6) alleged that PO Figueroa snatched her cell phone out of her hand which resulted in in bruises and a scratch. She also alleged that PO Figueroa and PO Flores "yanked" her arms behind her back. However, in her sworn statement, \$87(2)(6) stated that there was no struggle with her in order to confiscate her cell phone or place her in handcuffs and both were completed without incident. \$87(2)(6)
Findings and Recommendations
Allegation A – Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Lydia Figueroa stopped 887(2)(b)  Allegation B – Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Rosemary Flores stopped 887(2)(b)
stated that she had a verbal dispute with a Target cashier. Although \$87(2)(b) admitted to cursing at the cashier, their argument did not escalate to the point of physical force. Target security guards followed \$87(2)(b) through the store and pointed her out to NYPD officers when they arrived on scene, prompting them to stop her.
is a plainclothes Target security guard who was present at the time. He explained that he did not witness the alleged assault but was alerted to the incident when he received an emergency alert over his radio. When he responded to the alert, he found a customer shouting at \$87(2)(b) and alleging that she hit a Target cashier. As a result, another Target security guard, \$87(2)(b) called 911.
did not witness the original incident. Like \$87(2)(b) he responded to the scene when he received an emergency alert over his radio. When \$87(2)(b) first arrived, \$87(2)(b) Page 3

then called his boss for instructions on how to deal with the situation. His boss informed him that, since Target security had not witnessed the alleged assault, they could not take any action regarding street unless the victim of the alleged assault wanted to press charges. Street asked the cashier if she wanted to file a police report and she said yes, so called 911, explained that a customer had hit a cashier, and requested that officers respond. Stated that, when officers responded to the scene, he pointed street out to them.
The 911 audio regarding this incident confirms that street called 911, stated that a customer hit a cashier, and provided a physical description (black female, 50s, glasses, black durag, blue and white street) jacket) of the alleged perpetrator.
PO Flores stated that she and PO Figueroa became involved in the incident when they responded to a call from Target reporting that a customer had assaulted an employee. When the officers entered the store, an unknown security guard stationed at the front entrance saw them and pointed out \$87(2)(0) and the security guards who were following her through the store. PO Flores stated that, once she and PO Figueroa approached the scene, a security guard informed them that had assaulted an employee.
Similarly, PO Figueroa stated that she and PO Flores responded to a call for an assault in progress at Target. She stated that, prior to responding, all she knew was that the perpetrator was a female. PO Figueroa stated that, as soon as the officers entered the building, they noticed a woman screaming and being followed by two security guards. As PO Figueroa and PO Flores approached them, a security guard looked at the officers and pointed at \$87(2)(0) PO Figueroa stated that she asked the security guards what had happened and was told that \$87(2)(0) had assaulted a Target employee.
Surveillance video obtained from Target shows that \$87(2)(b) attempted to make physical contact with the Target employee. However, the employee used her arm to move \$87(2)(b) s arm away. The video does not show \$87(2)(b) strike the employee at any point. Video sent by shows the moment at which \$87(2)(b) points \$87(2)(b) out to someone out of the frame (presumably the officers). \$87(2)(b) matches the description provided in the 911 call.
IA #136, 31 seconds.mp4
An officer may stop an individual when they have reasonable suspicion that the individual has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime ( <u>People v. De Bour</u> , 40 N.Y.2d 2010, 1976) [09 Board Review].
§ 87(2)(g)
Page 4

was still arguing with the cashier. A customer told §87(2)(b) that §87(2)(b) had hit a cashier.

§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation C – Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Lydia Figueroa interfered with suse of a recording device.
As discussed above, \$87(2)(b) was recording the incident with her cell phone when officers responded to the scene. \$87(2)(b) alleged that, seconds after arriving, PO Figueroa instructed her to put her cell phone down. \$87(2)(b) did not comply with this request, so PO Figueroa reached over and grabbed the phone out of \$87(2)(b) s hand. PO Figueroa was in custody of the phone for the remainder of the incident, and \$87(2)(b) did not get her phone back until she was taken out of handcuffs and escorted out of the store.
Due to the background noise in the cell phone video provided by \$87(2)(b) no instructions are heard telling \$87(2)(b) to put the phone down and it is similarly unclear how or why the recording stops.
explained that the officers were responding to a 911 call made by Target security stating that \$87(2)(b) hit a Target employee during the aforementioned dispute. When officers arrived, \$87(2)(b) was recording the incident on her phone and accusing Target security guards of racially profiling her. Target security guards pointed \$87(2)(b) out to the officers and they approached her. PO Figueroa asked \$87(2)(b) to put her phone away two or three times, but \$87(2)(b) did not comply or respond. PO Figueroa then reached over to grab \$87(2)(b) s cell phone out of her hand. \$87(2)(b) jerked her hand away and said "Don't grab my phone," to which PO Figueroa responded "I'm going to put you in handcuffs if you don't give me the phone." PO Figueroa then reached over again and grabbed \$87(2)(b) s cell phone out of her hands. The phone remained in police possession until the conclusion of the incident.
is the Target security guard who called 911 to report that \$87(2)(b) had assaulted a Target employee. He stated that, when officers arrived on scene, he pointed \$87(2)(b) out to them. \$87(2)(b) stated that, when officers approached, he told \$87(2)(b) that Target has a policy that forbids recording video inside the store. PO Figueroa reportedly looked at and nodded before asking \$87(2)(b) to put her phone down. \$87(2)(b) stated that ignored PO Figueroa's requests but did not do or say anything else to resist police action. In total, PO Figueroa asked that \$87(2)(b) put her phone away three or four times before she reached over and grabbed the phone out of \$87(2)(b) shands. PO Figueroa handed the phone to PO Flores, and it was not returned to \$87(2)(b) until the conclusion of the incident.
PO Flores stated that she and PO Figueroa responded to an assault in progress at Target. When they entered the store, a security guard approached them and said "They're over there," directing the officers' attention to a woman shouting into her phone and being followed by two security guards. PO Flores described §87(2)(5) s initial tone and demeanor as "irate" because, in
Page 5

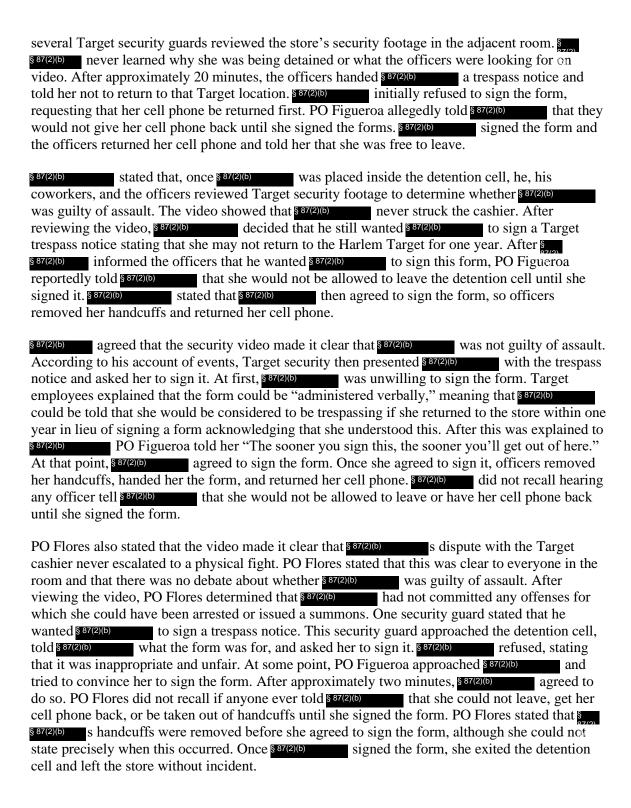
. 486 6

addition to shouting, she was reportedly flailing her arms as if to resist the security guards' attempts to restrain her or calm her down. PO Flores stated that no one on scene ever mentioned a Target policy regarding in-store recordings. Regardless, as soon as the officers neared PO Figueroa asked her to put her phone down at least twice. PO Figueroa told reportedly said no and continued to record. PO Flores stated that she did not recall whether PO Figueroa told why she could not record. As this exchange went on, PO Flores determined that whether PO Figueroa told needed to be handcuffed for safety purposes. She made this determination because would not stop shouting and because, at that point, PO Flores believed that whether PO Flores to fear for her safety. Without discussing the issue with PO Figueroa, PO Flores approached from behind and handcuffed her left wrist. There were no other factors that caused PO Flores to fear for her safety. Without discussing the issue with PO Figueroa, PO Flores approached from behind and handcuffed her left wrist. There were no other factors that caused PO Flores to fear for her safety. Without discussing the issue with PO Figueroa, PO Flores approached from behind and handcuffed her left wrist. There were no other factors that caused PO Flores to fear for her safety. Without discussing the issue with PO Figueroa, PO Flores approached from and did not physically resist. PO Figueroa then grabbed for her phone as soon as PO Figueroa grabbed it and there was no struggle involved. Although PO Flores never discussed the matter with PO Figueroa, she assumed that PO Figueroa took the cell phone to assist with the handcuffing process. Seculo phone was not returned to her until the conclusion of the incident.
PO Figueroa also noted that she and PO Flores responded to an assault in progress at Target. When they entered the store, they immediately noticed a woman shouting while being followed by two security guards. This woman was recording the incident with her cell phone. When they approached, a security guard pointed at \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ and explained that she had assaulted a Target employee. Based on this information, PO Figueroa's intention at the time was to arrest \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ She then approached \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ and grabbed the cell phone out of her hands without any struggle and without using any force. \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ was then handcuffed. PO Figueroa did not recall whether she asked \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ to put her phone down before she confiscated it. PO Figueroa stated that she took this action exclusively for her own safety because she did not feel comfortable standing near \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ when she was carrying an object that could be used as a weapon. She stated that she never spoke with any Target employees about whether the store had a policy forbidding in-store recording. The cell phone was not returned to \$\frac{87(2)(0)}{2}\$ until the conclusion of the incident.
According to <u>Patrol Guide 212-49</u> and reiterated in Finest Message #9881632, members of the public are allowed to record police activity including arrests. However, this recording may not interfere with police operations [08, 05 Board Review].
§ 87(2)(g)

Page 6

# Allegation D – Force: Police Officer Lydia Figueroa used physical force against [887(2)(5)] alleged that PO Figueroa elbowed her in her ribcage before placing her in handcuffs. She did not make this allegation in her initial complaint or phone statement. stated that the only injury that she sustained during the incident was some redness and irritation to her wrists from the handcuffs and that she did not physically resist police action at any point. stated \$87(2)(b) was handcuffed without incident and that he never saw any officer elbow §87(2)(6) or use any type of force against her. testified that, immediately after confiscating the cell phone, PO Figueroa pulled s arm towards her in a "forceful" manner. Aside from pulling her arm towards her, PO Figueroa did not use any force against \$87(2)(b) during the incident, and she did not resist being handcuffed. §87(2)(b) stated that he did not see any officer elbow §87(2)(b) PO Flores stated that \$87(2)(b) was handcuffed without any struggle. \$87(2)(g) PO Flores stated that she was the one Regardless, PO Flores stated that neither she nor PO Figueroa ever who handcuffed § 87(2)(b) elbowed 887(2)(b) or used any other type of force against her. PO Figueroa stated that she was fairly certain that PO Flores handcuffed \$87(2)(b) Figueroa did not believe that she had assisted in this process. PO Figueroa stated that did not physically resist being handcuffed in any way and that neither she nor PO Flores elbowed her during this process. PO Figueroa never heard any complaints that an officer had used force against § 87(2)(b) Neither \$87(2)(b) s video nor the surveillance video obtained from Target showed § 87(2)(b) being handcuffed. Allegation E – Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Lydia Figueroa detained [887(2)(5) was handcuffed, she was escorted to a detention cell inside the store. was placed inside this room while still in handcuffs as PO Figueroa, PO Flores, and

Page 7



Page 8

the trespass notice and said "You have to sign this." PO Flores stated that members of the Target security team told \$37(2)(0) what would happen if she did not sign the form but did not recall what they told her. PO Flores did not recall if PO Figueroa ever told \$37(2)(0) what the consequences would be if she refused to sign. PO Flores also amended her initial testimony and stated that PO Figueroa removed \$37(2)(0) shadouffs after \$37(2)(0) agreed to sign the form. Despite this sequence of events, PO Flores stated that \$37(2)(0) shadouffs was not contingent upon her agreeing to sign the trespass notice. PO Flores stated that the video appeared to show PO Figueroa blocking \$37(2)(0) shadouffs after \$37(2)(0) shadouffs after \$37(2)(0) shadouffs was not contingent upon her agreeing to sign the trespass notice. PO Flores stated that the video appeared to show PO Figueroa blocking \$37(2)(0) shadouffs after \$37(2)(0) shadouffs was probably because a Target security guard requested that \$37(2)(0) shadouffs the detention cell. PO Flores did not know why a security guard would have requested this. However, she added that \$37(2)(0) had become more agitated throughout the course of the incident and was yelling at officers at the time.
Was placed inside the detention cell, she left the room to speak with the victim of the alleged assault. The victim told PO Figueroa that state wanted to press charges. PO Figueroa then returned to PO Flores and the security guards to view the video. PO Figueroa stated that the video made it immediately clear that the most state was guilty of was harassment, and that she had not committed any offenses that would justify an arrest. After viewing the video, a Target security guard mentioned that they wanted state was to sign a trespass notice. PO Figueroa stated that she was the first person to approach still in handcuffs inside the detention cell. PO Figueroa stated that, while still in handcuffs inside the detention cell. PO Figueroa stated that, while still in handcuffs inside the detention cell. PO Figueroa raised her voice during this discussion but that she did not present a particular safety concern while she was inside the detention cell. After still agreed to sign the form, PO Figueroa removed her handcuffs. PO Figueroa explained that she did not remove she wanted her to remain in a contained area if she was going to be given a pen in order to sign the form. PO Figueroa stated that Target security staff never requested that she was not guilty of assault because she wanted her to remain in a contained area if she was going to be given a pen in order to sign the form. PO Figueroa stated that Target security staff never requested that she was not guilty of assault. She added that neither she nor PO Flores ever told stated that she could not leave, would not be taken out of handcuffs, or would not get her cell phone back until she signed the form.
After viewing video obtained from Target, PO Figueroa stated that \$87(2)(0) initially refused to sign the trespass notice until officers removed her handcuffs. PO Figueroa added that she blocked \$87(2)(0) from exiting the detention cell because she did not want her to have a pen in an open area exclusively for safety purposes. PO Figueroa stated that \$87(2)(0) never did anything to indicate that she wanted to use the pen as a weapon and that she asked her to remain in the room as a general safety precaution. PO Figueroa stated that she instructed \$87(2)(0) to remain inside the room until she signed the form. PO Figueroa stated that, at the point when \$87(2)(0) was allowed to exit the detention cell, she no longer presented a safety concern.

Page 9

Finally, the aforementioned video obtained from Target's booking room (where officers reviewed the video) and detention cell shows that officers finished viewing the security video and determined that was not guilty of assault at approximately 9:47 a.m. was taken out of handcuffs by PO Figueroa at 9:52 a.m. and allowed to leave the detention cell at 9:53 a.m. after signing the trespass notice.



IA 137, 1 minute 13 seconds.mp4

IA #138, 55 seconds.mp4

*United States v. Sharpe* established that, following a lawful stop, the police may place a suspect under temporary investigative detention. *United States v. Sharpe*, 470 U.S. 675 (1985) [06 Board Review]. The purpose of such a detention is to obtain further information regarding the criminal activity for which the detained individual is suspected.

§ 87(2)(g)
during the course of the six minutes between when officers determined that was no longer under consideration for arrest and when she was ultimately released from the holding cell, 87(2)(6) s detention became unrelated to any investigation. According to the testimonies of 87(2)(6) PO Flores, and PO Figueroa, officers kept 7(2)(6) in handcuffs and subsequently inside the detention cell for the sole purpose of having her sign a company trespass notice. 87(2)(9)
S 97(9)(a)
§ 87(2)(g)

Page 10

Squad: 1			
Investigator:	Signature	Print	Date
Squad Leader:	Title/Signature	Print	Date
Reviewer:	Title/Signature	Print	 Date